

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-11 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 SCS-03

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R 221157Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 974

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0282

MADRID FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO UK

SUBJ: MOROCCAN CONCERN OVER LONDON ARRESTS AND LIBYAN-BACKED
TERRORISM

1. IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 21 FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA
RAISED WITH ME INVESTIGATION BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES OF
THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO KILL OR KIDNAP THE MOROCCAN
AMBASSADOR IN LONDON AND EXPRESSED CONTINUED DISSATISFAC-
TION WITH THE BRITISH PERFORMANCE. HE SAID BRITISH
AUTHORITIES ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE SIDETRACKED ONLY
TOO EASILY AS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SWEEP THE WHOLE AFFAIR
UNDER THE RUG. NOW BRITISH EVEN ACCEPT AS PLAUSIBLE A
STORY THAT ARREST PERSONS HAD WANTED TO ENHANCE THE
CANDIDACY OF THE MOROCCAN STUDENT (HAKKAOU) AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SANTA BARBARA AS PRESIDENT
OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY, BUT THIS WAS SUCH A THIN EX-
PLANATION THAT NOBODY COULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

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2. IN THIS CONNECTION, FONMIN BROUGHT UP FOR THE FIRST

TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH ME THE ARRESTS OF SOME AMERICANS IN MARRAKECH FOR DISTRIBUTING RELIGIOUS PAMPHLETS WHICH NOT ONLY ATTACKED MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES BUT LAUDED QADHAFI (CASABLANCA 039). ALTHOUGH THESE PAMPHLETS WERE IN RELIGIOUS FORMAT, THE REFERENCE TO QADHAFI MAKES THE MOROCCANS TAKE NOTE, ESPECIALLY AS QADHAFI IS KNOWN TO USE GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS DEDICATED TO OTHER PURPOSES FOR HIS OWN. THUS FOR INSTANCE HE HAS USED MAFIOSI IN ITALY AS WELL AS FASCISTS, AND HE WONDERS WHETHER THIS GROUP COULD HAVE BEEN BANKROLLED, POSSIBLY EVEN WITHOUT ITS KNOWLEDGE, BY QADHAFI AGENTS. HE REITERATED REQUEST FOR CLOSEST COOPERATION AND INFORMATION ON SUCH SECURITY MATTERS.

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